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Message Text

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62
ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 IO-11 L-03 INR-07 IGA-02

/052 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-GADIES:DFF
APPROVED BY AF:JJBLAKE
AF/W:TWMSMITH
EB/IF/ODF-NRIEGG (SUBS)
---------- 040927
R 162359Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063989

STADIS//////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:EAID, DM, US, IBRD

SUBJECT:SUPPLEMENTARY WORLD BANK CREDIT FOR PARAKOU-MALANVILLE ROAD

1. IBRD APPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY DOLS 9 MILLION CREDIT FOR COMPLETION OF IBRD-FINANCED PORTION OF PARAKOU-MALANVILLE ROAD MARCH 5. IN MEETING OF IBRD EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, USG REPRESENTATIVE ABSTAINED ON THIS CREDIT, FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: COST OVERRUN IN THIS CASE WAS HIGHER THAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY, AND GPRB WAS NOT ABSORBING SUFFICIENT PERCENTAGE OF COST OVERRUN. SUPPLEMENTARY CREDIT WAS APPROVED BY IBRD BOARD OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS SINCE NO NEGATIVE VOTES WERE CAST (NOTE: ABSTENTION BY USG REP NOT EQUIVALENT TO NEGATIVE VOTE).

2. BEGIN FYI: TREASURY, WHICH CASTS USG VOTE IN IBRD, HAS LONG-STANDING POSITION OF OPPOSING SUPPLEMENTARY CREDITS TO
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COVER COST OVERRUNS. TREASURY WAS ASKED BY STATE TO VOTE

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FAVORABLY ON THIS CREDIT, AS AN EXCEPTION TO ITS POLICY, BUT IT REFUSED. BASIS FOR STATE'S ADVOCACY OF AFFIRMATIVE VOTE WAS THAT IN THIS INSTANCE COST OVERRUN SEEMED JUSTIFIED, AND THAT TREASURY CANNOT LUMP ALL COST OVERRUNS TOGETHER. IN NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAC) MEETING ON THIS CREDIT, STATE WAS SOLE AGENCY FAVORING AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, AND USG

REP TO IBRD THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN, BY CONSENSUS OF NAC. END FYI.

3. BENINESE CERTAINLY AWARE OF USG OBJECTION TO SUPPLEMENTARY CREDIT, DUE TO FACT THAT A BENINESE (STANISLAS POGNON) IS ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICA GROUP. WHILE ABSTENTION IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO NEGATIVE VOTE, ONLY RARELY ARE ANY RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED IN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEETINGS TO VOTE ON CREDITS. THEREFORE, IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT GPRB MIGHT RAISE MATTER WITH EMBASSY IN ORDER DETERMINE USG RATIONALE FOR ABSTENTION. IF SUBJECT IS RAISED, EMBASSY SHOULD CONFINE DISCUSSION TO POINTS PARA 1 ABOVE. KISSINGER

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